

get one shot. I hope Members on both sides will recognize what an incredible opportunity we have right now to address this whole range of issues that have been languishing here for a long time, and do something that will be meaningful in terms of continuing to give our entrepreneurs in this country, small businesses, farm and ranch operations the opportunity to grow, to continue to build wealth, to create jobs, and to keep the economy strong. That is what this particular bill and what it contains is all about.

Again, my hope is that at the end of the day we will see a good, strong, bipartisan vote in the Senate as we saw in the House of Representatives, and be able to send this on to the President where he can sign it into law and we can demonstrate to the people of this country that we are addressing the issues they care deeply about and, most importantly, I say to them the issue of the economy, and dealing with energy costs today with an energy bill, dealing with the death tax, dealing with the minimum wage, dealing with these other forms of tax relief are all things that have been on the agenda for some time.

I believe we have an opportunity to get this done. I hope we can.

I appreciate the work of my colleagues who have labored so diligently to get this far in the process, to get it on the floor for a vote. I hope when Friday rolls around and we have this vote that we will have the 60 votes necessary to move forward and to get this done once and for all.

I yield the floor.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARMY CORPORAL NATHANIEL S. BAUGHMAN

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Idaville. Nathaniel S. Baughman, 23 years old, was killed on July 17th by rocket-propelled grenades while on duty in Bayji, Iraq. Nate risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Baughman enlisted in the Army National Guard last spring and shortly after was deployed to Iraq. He was on his last mission when he was killed and was due to return home to Indiana in a few weeks. Baughman was remembered by his mother, Jill Baughman, who told a local news outlet, "He was a good dad, a great father. He was a hard worker who believed in what he was doing. We're proud of what he did for us, very proud of him." Nate was a 2001 graduate of Twin Lakes High School. He was married 2 years ago and had a son, Hunter, 4.

Nate was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, KY. This brave sol-

dier leaves behind his parents, Robert and Jill Baughman and Andy Skorup; twin brother Nick Skorup and brothers Ben, Joseph and Christopher Baughman; his wife Erin; son Hunter and Hunter's mother Amanda Conrad.

Today, I join Nate's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Nate, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Nate was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Nate will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Nate's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Nate's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Nathaniel S. Baughman in the official record of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Nate's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Nate.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On July 29, 2006, in San Diego, CA, three men were beaten at the end of a

gay pride festival. As the three men were returning home, a group of men attacked them with baseball bats and knives. During the attack, the assailant yelled anti-gay insults at the victims. One of the victims remains hospitalized with a fractured skull while another victim suffered from multiple stab wounds. Police are investigating this as a hate crime.

I believe that the government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

CRISIS IN LEBANON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, since July 12th we have watched with growing horror as hundreds of Hezbollah rockets have landed deeper and deeper inside Israel, indiscriminately killing and injuring civilians, and Israeli bombs, missiles and artillery shells have destroyed much of the civilian infrastructure in areas of Beirut and southern Lebanon.

Some 550 Lebanese have died, the vast majority of them civilians, and an estimated 866,000 one in five Lebanese citizens have fled their homes and are either displaced in Lebanon, living in schools and public buildings, or as refugees in Syria. Fifty Israelis have died, and in Haifa and other towns in the north many families are living in terror in basements or shelters.

Meanwhile, three Israeli soldiers remain as hostages and their families remain in anguish hostages held in violation of the Geneva Conventions and every other international norm. In another sense, Hezbollah and its supporters Syria and Iran are holding the entire population of Lebanon hostage.

Of the 26,000 American citizens who were living in or visiting Lebanon when this crisis began, more than 12,000 have been evacuated, and the exodus continues. The cost to the U.S. Government of this air and sea lift is expected to be at least \$46 million.

The evacuation took too long to get started, and the delay and confusion caused a lot of frustration and anxiety among Americans in Lebanon as well as their families back home.

As after Hurricane Katrina, I hope the administration has learned something from this experience. At the same time, I want to commend the State Department employees and U.S. military personnel who worked around the clock to help Americans who were trapped in Lebanon find a way out.

The unprovoked, indiscriminate and utterly inexcusable kidnapping of Israeli soldiers and rocket attacks by Hezbollah should be universally condemned. Those who ordered it should be brought to justice. It has ignited a conflict that Hezbollah cannot win but which could engulf the region if a way